



## Frederick County Commission For Women

401 Sagner Avenue

Frederick, MD 21701

(301) 600-1066

CFW@FrederickCountyMD.gov

[www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/fccfw](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/fccfw)

[www.Facebook.com/fccfw](https://www.Facebook.com/fccfw)



### Public Meeting (Online)

February 8, 2022

6:15 p.m. – Virtual Meeting

Watch LIVE on Facebook Live: [www.Facebook.com/fccfw](https://www.Facebook.com/fccfw)

#### COMMISSIONERS

**Chelsea Kadish**  
*President*

**Kaitlin Moore**  
*Vice President*

**Shauna Mulcahy**  
*Recorder*

**Valerie Dougherty**  
*Treasurer*

**Maura Page**  
*Past President*

Melissa Atherholt  
Rosario Campos  
Lakshmi Darbha  
Lois Jarman  
Lindsay Mickey  
Cindy Shubin  
Desiree Tucker  
Marguerite Vacca-Kaye

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#### I. Role Call of Commissioners and Introduction of Guests

**Commissioners present:** Chelsea Kadish, Kaitlin Moore, Valerie Dougherty, Maura Page, Melissa Atherholt, Rosario Campos, Lois Jarman, Cindy Shubin, Marguerite Vacca-Kaye, Lakshmi Darbha

**Commissioners absent:** Shauna Mulcahy, Lindsay Mickey, Desiree Tucker

**Guests:** Ashley Waters, Maigan Pechnik, Edwina Benites, La Tisha Boyd-Potts, Shawn Horton

President Chelsea Kadish called the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m., a quorum was present.

#### II. Executive Committee Report

- i. Treasurer's Quarterly Financial Report
  - i. Valerie shared that there was not much activity during first Quarter of the year. The commission deposited \$3,500.00 in county funding. Commission also paid annual phone costs. Commission paid (Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women) MLAW dues and \$200 Sponsorship of MLAW conference. The commission made a \$100 donation to Heartly House for the 'Walk a Mile in her Shoes' event. All accounts are in order.

#### III. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting – December 13, 2021

- i. Lois Jarman moved to approve the December meeting minutes, Maura Page seconded. Kaitlin and Rosario abstain. All other commissioners present approved. December 13, 2021 minutes were accepted.

#### IV. Guest Presentations

- i. Brooke DeSantis, Love for Lochlin
  - i. Website: <https://www.loveforlochlin.com/>
  - ii. Email: [loveforlochlin@gmail.com](mailto:loveforlochlin@gmail.com)

***Our Mission: To create a stronger community by addressing challenges and fostering unlimited opportunities for all women.***

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Brooke DeSantis will be joining the next Commission for Women meeting in March 2022.

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### ii. Ashley Waters - Women to Women Mentoring

i. Website: <https://www.womantowomanmentoring.org>

ii. Email: [info@womantowomanmentoring.org](mailto:info@womantowomanmentoring.org)

Ashley shared about Women to Women's mentoring program and goals to connect the community and mentor all women in the community. Located at Frederick County Community College. Support women of all backgrounds and ages. Organization is a 501c3 that has expanded to multiple programs, including: Core Mentoring Program (approximately 20 women per cohort), STEM Mentoring Program for college-aged women, and Mentoring Circles to serve women beyond Core and STEM models (e.g. Gig economy worker group). In addition to programs, Women to Women also hold community events: Purse Auction, Pop-Up shop, Girls Night Out. Upcoming event on Friday 2/11 for U.N.'s International Day of Women and Girls in Science

### V. Committee Reports

#### i. Outreach - Chair Lakshmi Darbha

Lakshmi Darbha participated during the MLK Jr. Potluck on January 17 on behalf of the commission. Lakshmi also attended the Maryland Women's Legislative Agenda Briefing on behalf of the commission.

#### ii. Recruitment - Co- Chairs Melissa Atherholt and Shauna Mulcahy

i. Names have been submitted to County Executive Gardner for Consideration

Names of new members have been forwarded on to the County Council for appointment.

The Commission may have up to 15 members, we currently have 13 members. We have two open vacancies that will be filled once the two appointments go through. We also will need to fill Rosario's position. Lindsay Mickey will also be stepping down and we will be able to fill that position as well. Looking for additional members.

ii. Two vacancies - goal for names to be in to Joyce Grossnickle by end of March for consideration at April Meeting

#### iii. She Leads - Chair Maura Page

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i. Youth Summit- April 30th, 2022. The Summit will take place at Hood College. The topics chosen by SheLeads participants include: Advocacy, Mindfulness, Financial Literacy, School Resource Officer Speaker Event, ROTC Speaker Event, Climate Change, Women in STEM, Women's Health Awareness, College and Career Planning, Mental Health Awareness.

Collaborating with Stella's girls and Journey to Manhood. Goal is to have at least 100 FCPS students to participate and will also open the event to Private School and Homeschooled students (8<sup>th</sup> grade through high-school-aged).

Plan to host a panel with multiple colleges, including HCBU representatives and offer tours of Hood College.

#### a. Budget request

- i. Requesting \$500.00 for refreshments (food and drink) to provide during the Youth Summit.
- ii. Maura Page moves to approve the expenditure of \$500.00 for refreshments for the Youth Summit hosted by the SheLeads group. Lakshmi Dharba seconds. Discussion- Valerie Dougherty recommends monitoring RSVPs for the event to see if budget should be increased. Edwina Benites offered partnership with GW University as well. Motion passes unanimously.

SheLeads participants attended the MLAW briefing.

#### iv. Community Concerns - Chair Kaitlin Moore

- a. Afghan refugee efforts in Frederick County MD. Kaitlin Moore reached out to the Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA) to learn about community need in Frederick County. Frederick County is expected to welcome at least 100 Afghan families.
- b. The Frederick County Immigrant Affairs Commission began meeting in January. They will hold a town hall in March.

#### v. Raving About Women – Shauna Mulcahy

- a. Save the Date 3/24/22 at 6:30 (Virtual event)
- b. County Executive Gardner will be keynote speaker
- c. Nominations for awards can be made online via [THIS FORM](#)

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- i. FCCFW Organization of the year
- ii. FCCFW Woman of the year
- iii. FCCFW Up and Coming Woman of the year
- d. Budget Request - funds for interactive online platform
  - i. Platform called [Remo.co](https://Remo.co) that allows for more interaction within an event. Cost for an event with a keynote is \$700.00. Chelsea Kadish motioned to approve the cost. Melissa Atherholt seconds. Discussion- Up to 100 participants. Motion passed unanimously.
  - ii. Cost of registration will be voluntary as a donation

### vi. **Legislative - Co-Chairs Chelsea Kadish and Cindy Shubin**

- a. Legislative Committee Report by Edwina Benites
  - i. Eddie shared that MLAW's purpose is to explore and advocate for various pieces of legislation prior to the start of each year's legislative session.
  - ii. Major pieces of legislation supported by MLAW this year:
    - b. Repeal of Spousal Defense (house and senate bills)
    - c. Stalking Legislation (house and senate bills) related to no increased penalty in breaking protective orders. Co-sponsored by a local legislator.
  - i. Eddie Benites recommends that the Commission for Women take an active role in supporting the bills
- b. Frederick County Coordinating Council is now meeting. Eddie Benites will meet with the group to coordinate efforts.
- c. Cindy Shubin shared the legislative focus areas from MLAW:
  - i. Abortion Care Access
  - ii. Criminal Law Repeal of Spousal Defense
  - iii. Labor and Employment-FMLA Insurance Fund
  - iv. Pregnant Persons Freedom Act
  - v. Criminal Law- Child Sex Trafficking
  - vi. Criminal Law- Stalking
  - vii. Protective Orders
  - viii. Pregnancy and Post-Partum Support

### VI. **Commission Business - Old Business**

- i. Updates to the CFW Handbook
  - i. Commission for Women Executive Committee is updating the handbook to reflect updated information. Capture institutional knowledge related to duties and responsibilities of commissioners and Executive Committee members.

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- ii. Melissa Atherholt will send an email to the commission with the most recent handbook materials and committee chair listing
- ii. Bylaws – County Executive Gardner did not approve our proposed bylaws amendments. Options were discussed for next steps:
  - i. The bylaw changes approved by the Commission for Women (after consultation with various county officials and the County Attorney) were not approved by the County Executive (CE). The CE provided additional changes. Additional bylaw changes are to be expected in the coming months to reflect the new financial structure.
  - ii. Any bylaw changes need to be sent to the commission for approval 30 days prior to any change. The executive committee will meet to address the CE's changes and bring the proposed updates to the commission in the Spring to begin the 30-day window. This timeline will allow us to capture the CE's recommendations along with changes to the financial structure.

## VII. Commission Business - New Business

- i. Desiree Tucker is absent tonight attending a Seeds to Roots event, and will continue to share updates from that group with the Commission.
- ii. Shawn Horton wanted to know commissioner expectations. Lakshmi Darbha asked which committee(s) Shawn Horton is interested in supporting, and shared that she could use help with Outreach.

## VIII. Commissioner and Guest Announcements

- i. Community Volunteer and internship Fair- Coming up at Hood College on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Maura Page will share Commission for Women materials at the event.

## IX. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm

**The next public meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm**

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